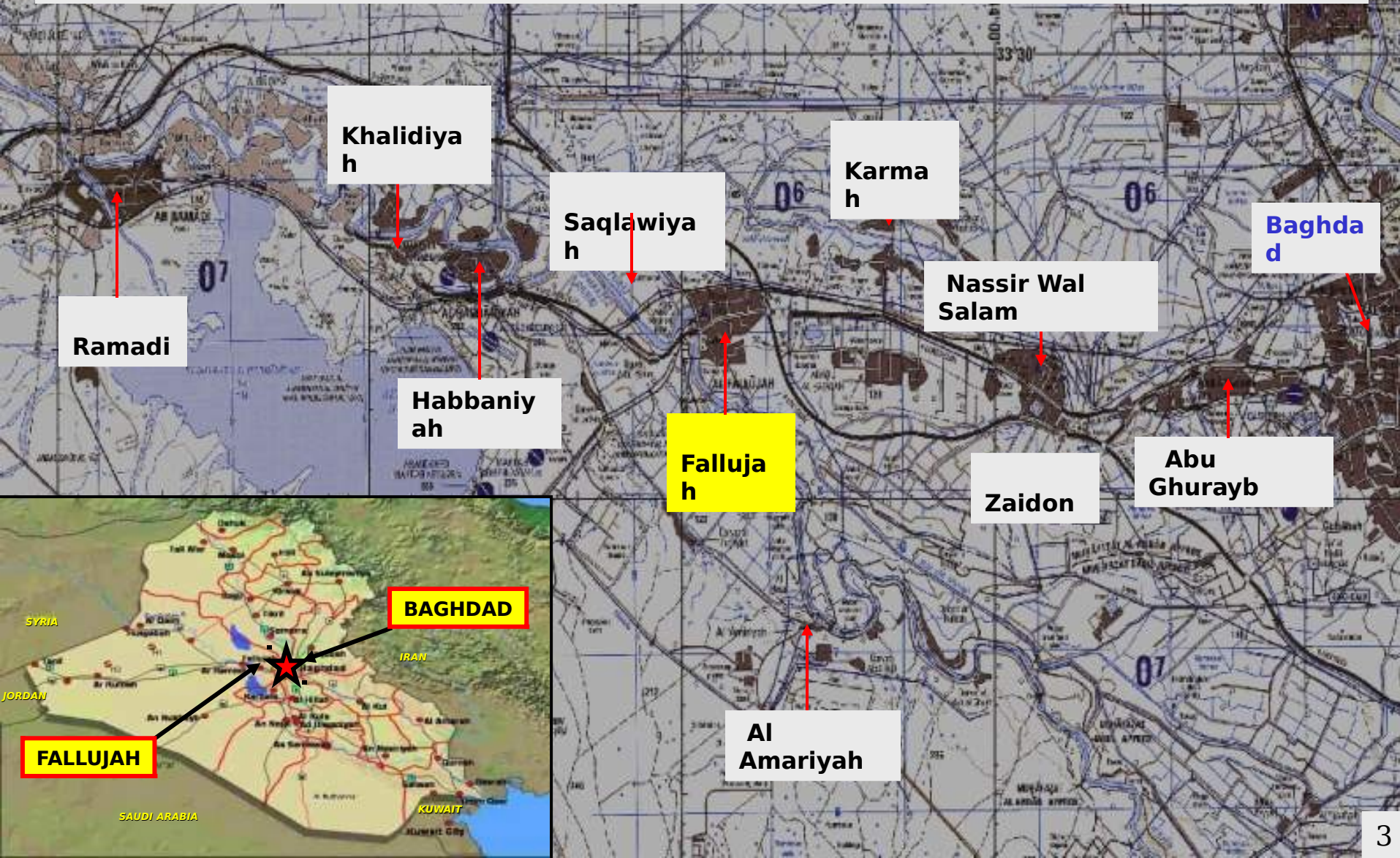
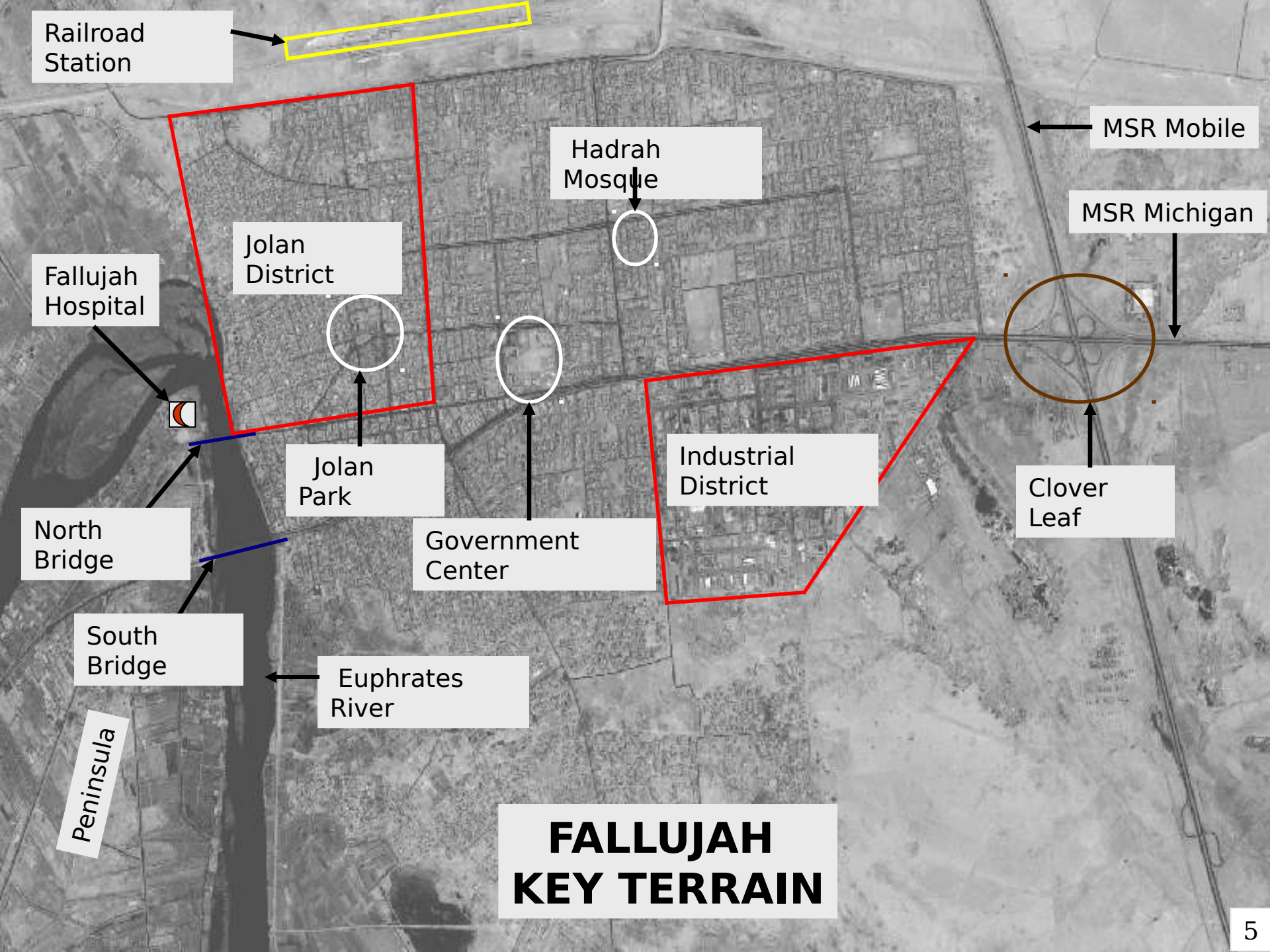


OPERATION AL FAJR

THE BATTLE FOR FALLUJAH

FALLUJAH AND SURROUNDING CITIES





Railroad
Station

MSR Mobile

MSR Michigan

Hadrah
Mosque

Jolan
District

Fallujah
Hospital



Jolan
Park

North
Bridge

Government
Center

Industrial
District

Clover
Leaf

South
Bridge

Euphrates
River

Peninsula

**FALLUJAH
KEY TERRAIN**

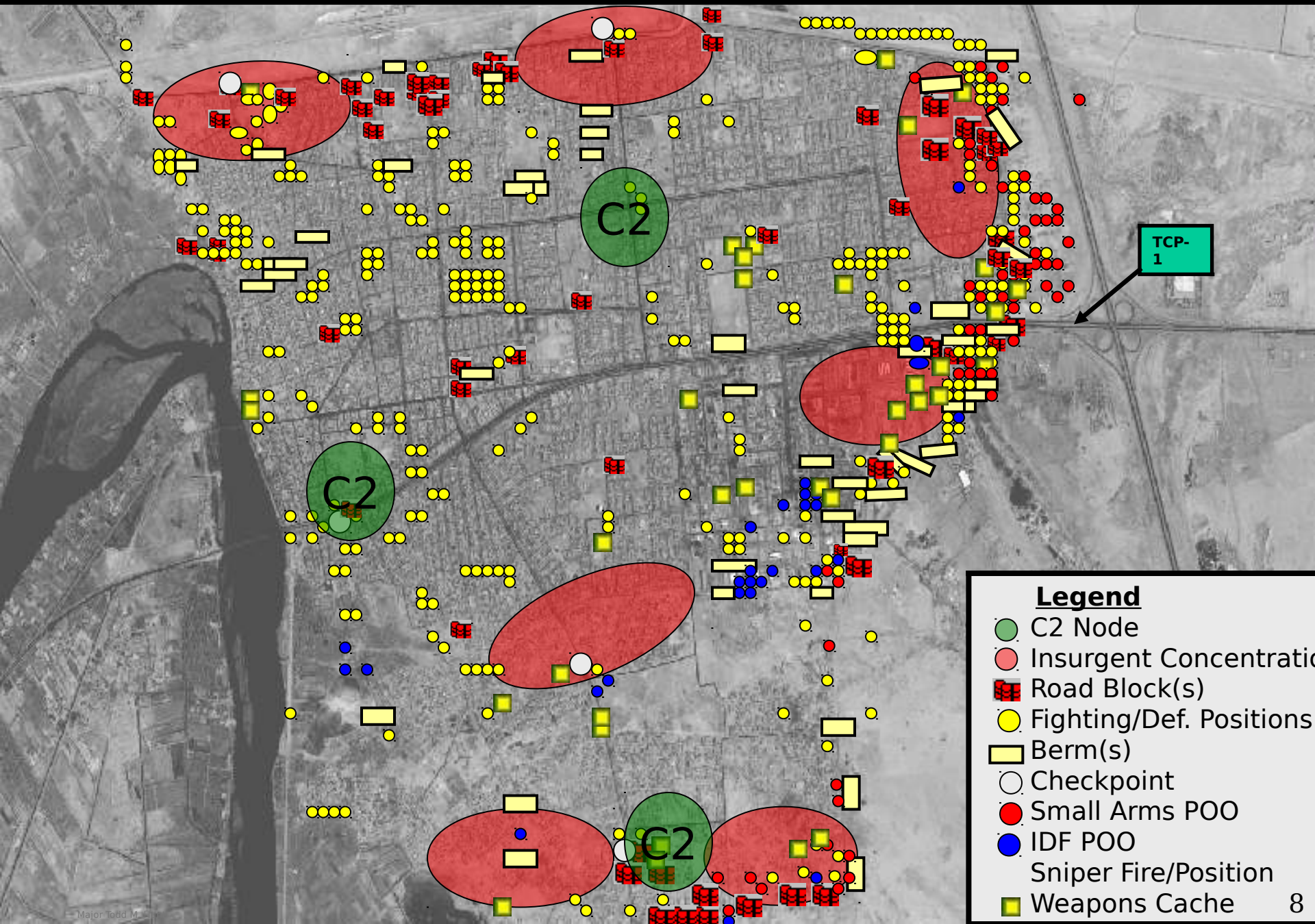


BACKGROUND

- **AMBUSH OF “BLACKWATER” CONTRACTORS (31 March 04)**
- **CORDON ESTABLISHED AROUND FALLUJAH**
- **OPERATION *VIGILANT RESOLVE* COMMENCES (4 - 30 APRIL 04)**
- **FALLUJAH BRIGADE STANDS UP**



FALLUJAH THREAT OVERVIEW (OCTOBER 2004)





MISSION

AT H HOUR ON D+1, 1ST MARINE DIVISION (-)(REIN) ATTACKS TO DESTROY ANTI-IRAQI FORCES IN FALLUJAH IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH LEGITIMATE LOCAL CONTROL





Fallujah Environs

Ramadi Western AON. Babil





PHASE I (PREPARATION)

- **OPERATIONAL PLANNING**
 - ROC DRILLS/REHEARSAL
- **MOVEMENT OF FORCES**
 - RIP/ BATTLE HANDOVERS WITHIN THE DIVISION AO
 - BLACK WATCH TO NORTH BABIL
- **INTEGRATION**
 - IRAQI SECURITY FORCES
 - U.S. ARMY UNITS
 - JOINT SPECIAL OPERATION SNIPERS
- **FSSG BUILDS IRON MOUNTAIN**



- SET CONDITIONS FOR SUCCESS -

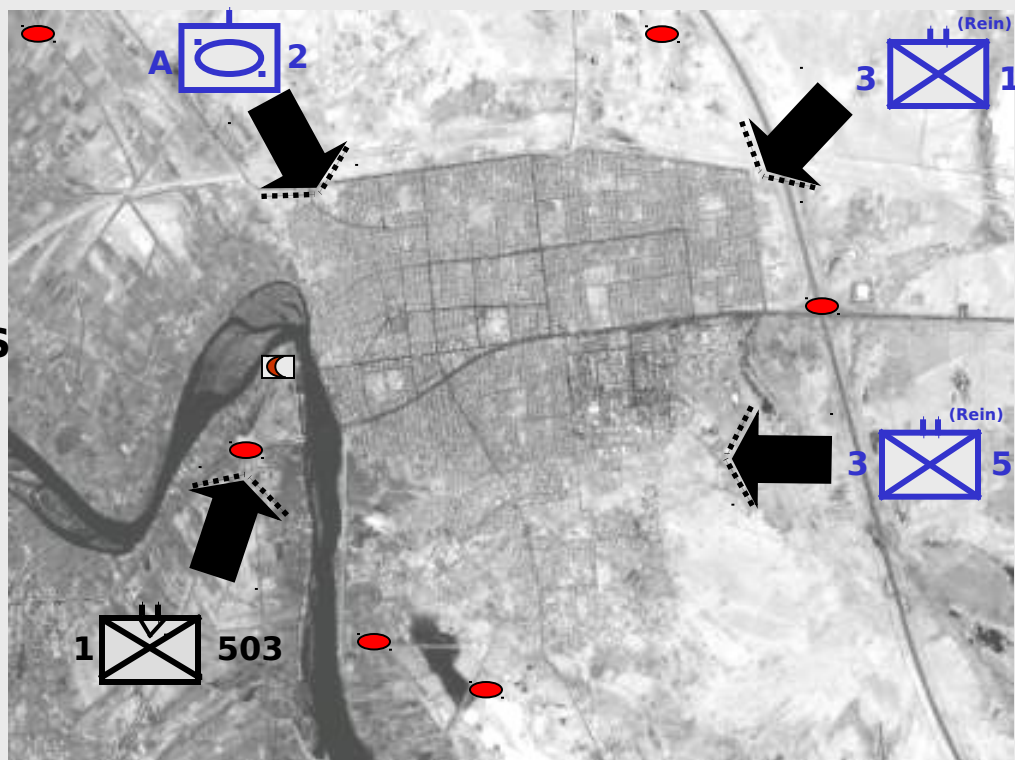


PHASE I (SHAPING)

- FEINTS
- RAIDS
- CORDON AND SEARCHES
- VEHICLE CHECKPOINTS (VCPS)
- INDIRECT FIRES AND CAS
- INFORMATION OPS AND PSYOPS
- TARGETING OF AIF LEADERSHIP
- SPECIAL OPERATION FORCES
- TARGETING OF HIGH-VALUE TARGETS

DESIRED ENEMY ENDSTATE

- CONFUSED AS TO MNF INTENTIONS
- WEDGE DRIVEN BETWEEN POPULACE AND AIF
- C² NODES EXPOSED AND DESTROYED
- DEFENSES IDENTIFIED
- HEIGHTENED STATE OF PARANOIA AND ANXIETY



● VEHICLE
CHECKPOINT

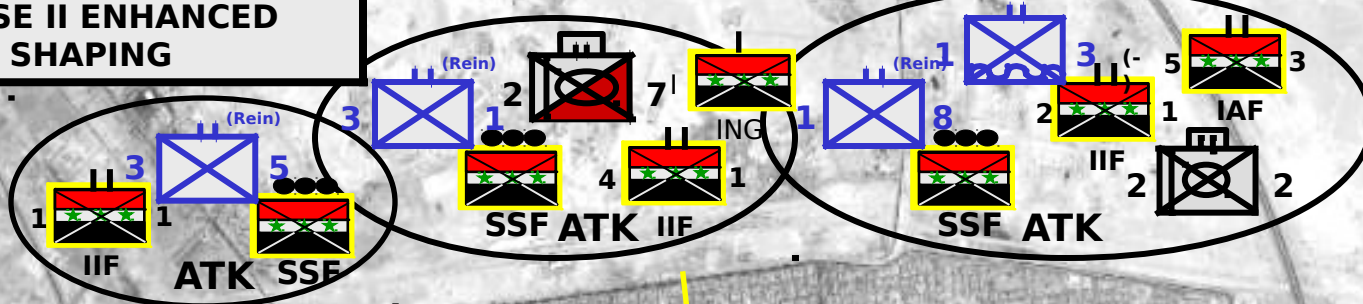


PHASE II D-DAY (7 NOV 04) (ENHANCED SHAPING)

- **ISOLATION OF FALLUJAH BY BLACK JACK BRIGADE**
- **MOVEMENT OF FORCES INTO ATTACK POSITIONS**
- **JOINT FIRES**
- **ELECTRONIC ATTACK**
- **PENINSULA ASSAULT**
 - **FALLUJAH HOSPITAL SECURED**
 - **BRIDGES SECURED/BLOCKING POSITIONS ESTABLISHED**



PHASE II ENHANCED SHAPING



JOLAN PARK

GOV'T CENTER

HADRAH MOSQUE

MSR MICHIGAN

ME: RCT- 1 (-)(REIN)

- ON D-DAY BLOCK ACCESS TO THE PENINSULA
- MOVE INTO ATTACK POSITIONS

TF 3RD LAR

- AT H-HOUR (1900L) ON D-DAY, ATTACK IN ZONE TO SECURE THE PENINSULA
- NLT H+6 ESTABLISH BLOCKING POS IVO OF (2) BRIDGES

36 CDO

- NLT H+8, SEIZE FALLUJAH HOSPITAL

SE1: RCT-7 (-)(REIN)

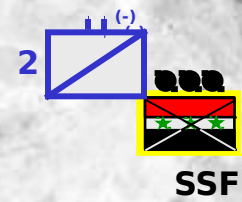
- MOVE INTO ATTACK POSITIONS

SE2: BLACK JACK BDE

- GUARD MOVEMENT OF ASSAULT BNs INTO APs
- INTERDICT INSURGENTS IN AO RALEIGH



36 CDO



PHASE III D+1 (8 NOV 04) (ASSAULT)

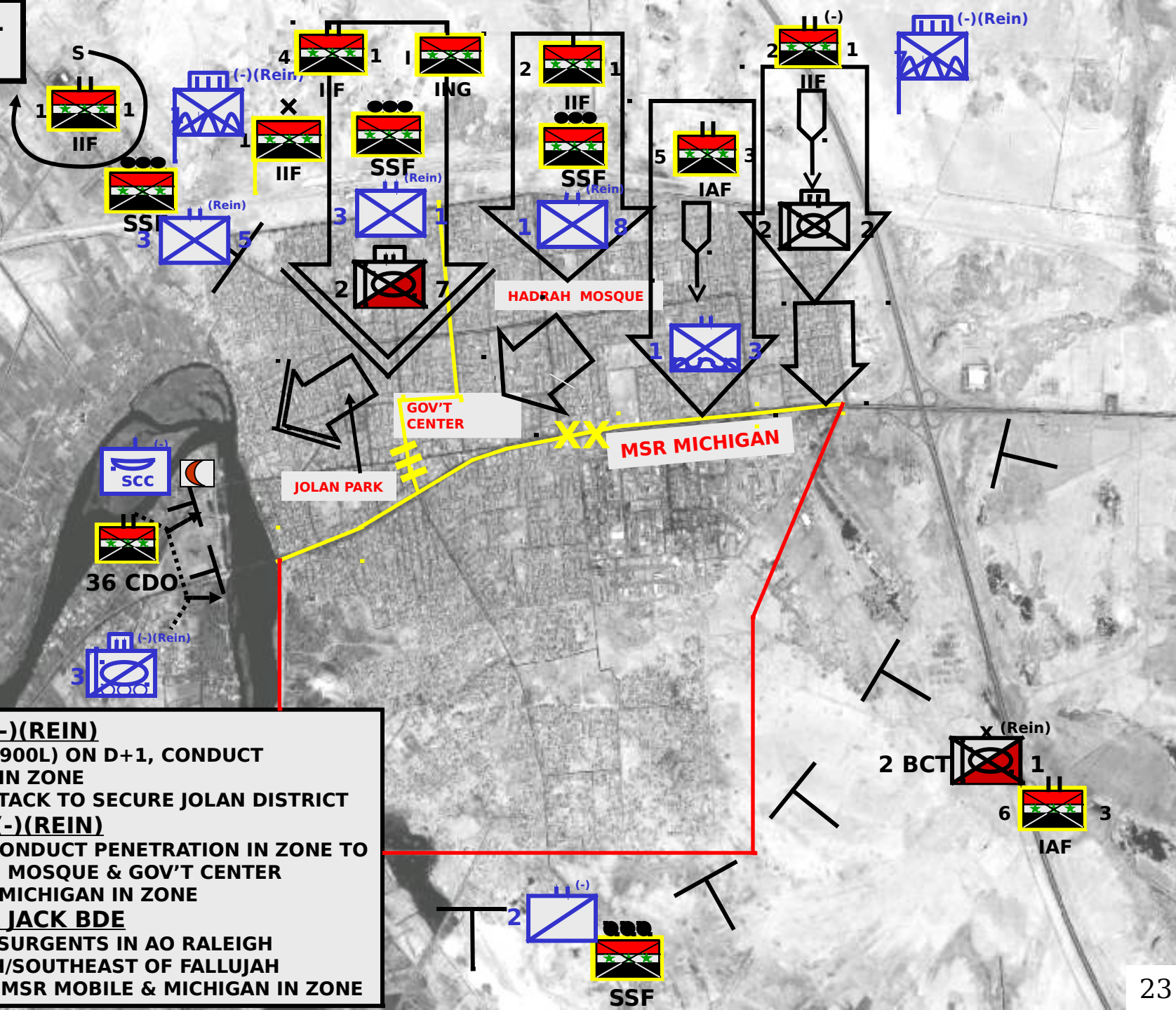


- **RAPID PENETRATION INTO CITY**
 - **EXPLOIT SHOCK, FIREPOWER, AND MOBILITY OF ARMORED FORCES**
 - **COMBINED ARMS ATTACK**
 - **ARMY/MARINE ARTILLERY**
 - **JOINT CLOSE AIR SUPPORT**
- **SEARCH AND ATTACK IN ZONE**
- **BLACK JACK BRIGADE CONTINUES TO ISOLATE FALLUJAH AND PROTECT DIVISION REAR AREA**
- **INTELLIGENCE EXPLOITATION**
- **INFORMATION OPERATIONS**



PHASE III-

A



ME: RCT 1 (-)(REIN)

- AT A-HOUR (1900L) ON D+1, CONDUCT PENETRATION IN ZONE
- CONTINUE ATTACK TO SECURE JOLAN DISTRICT

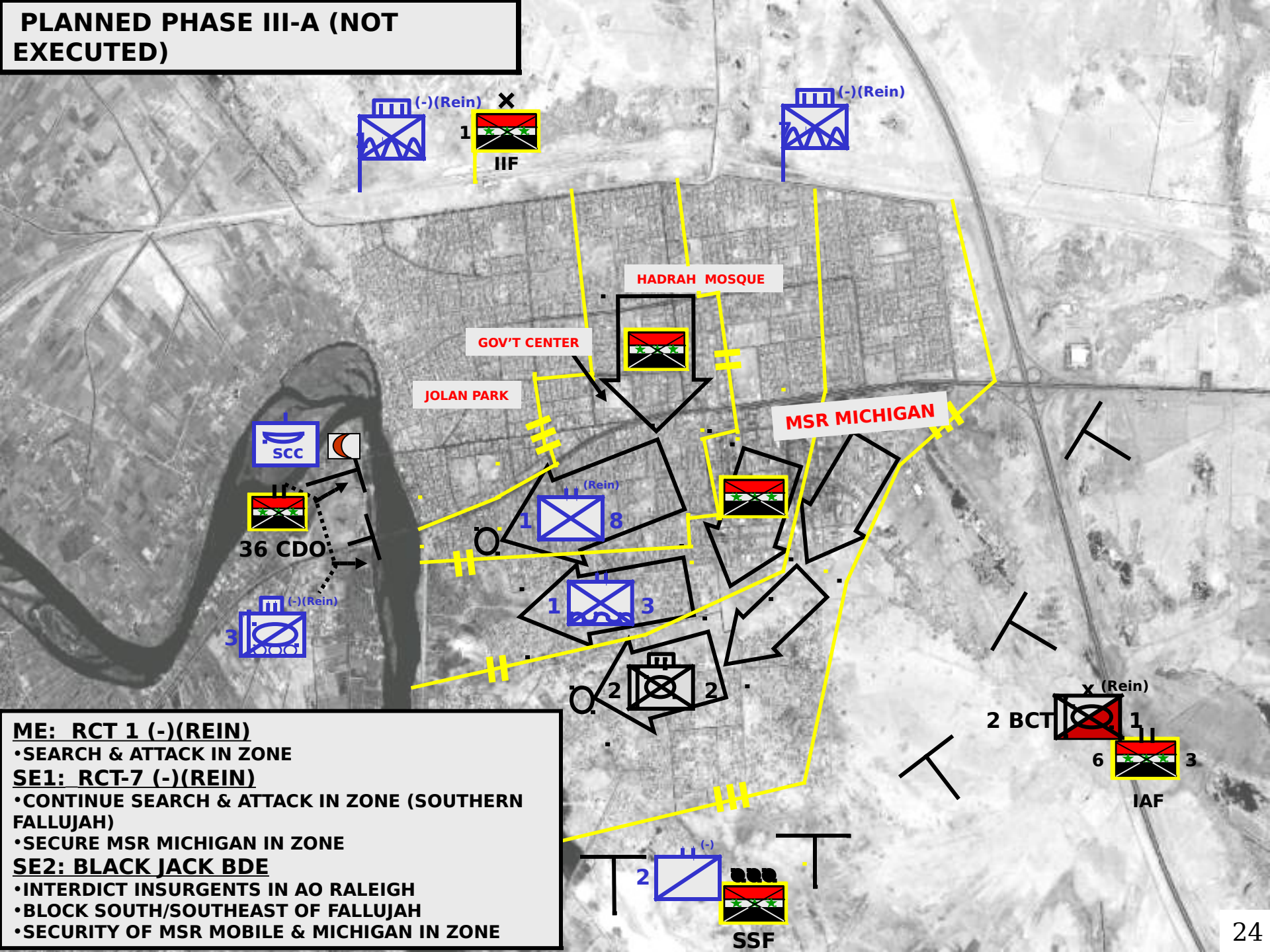
SE1: RCT-7 (-)(REIN)

- AT A-HOUR, CONDUCT PENETRATION IN ZONE TO SEIZE HADRAH MOSQUE & GOV'T CENTER
- SECURE MSR MICHIGAN IN ZONE

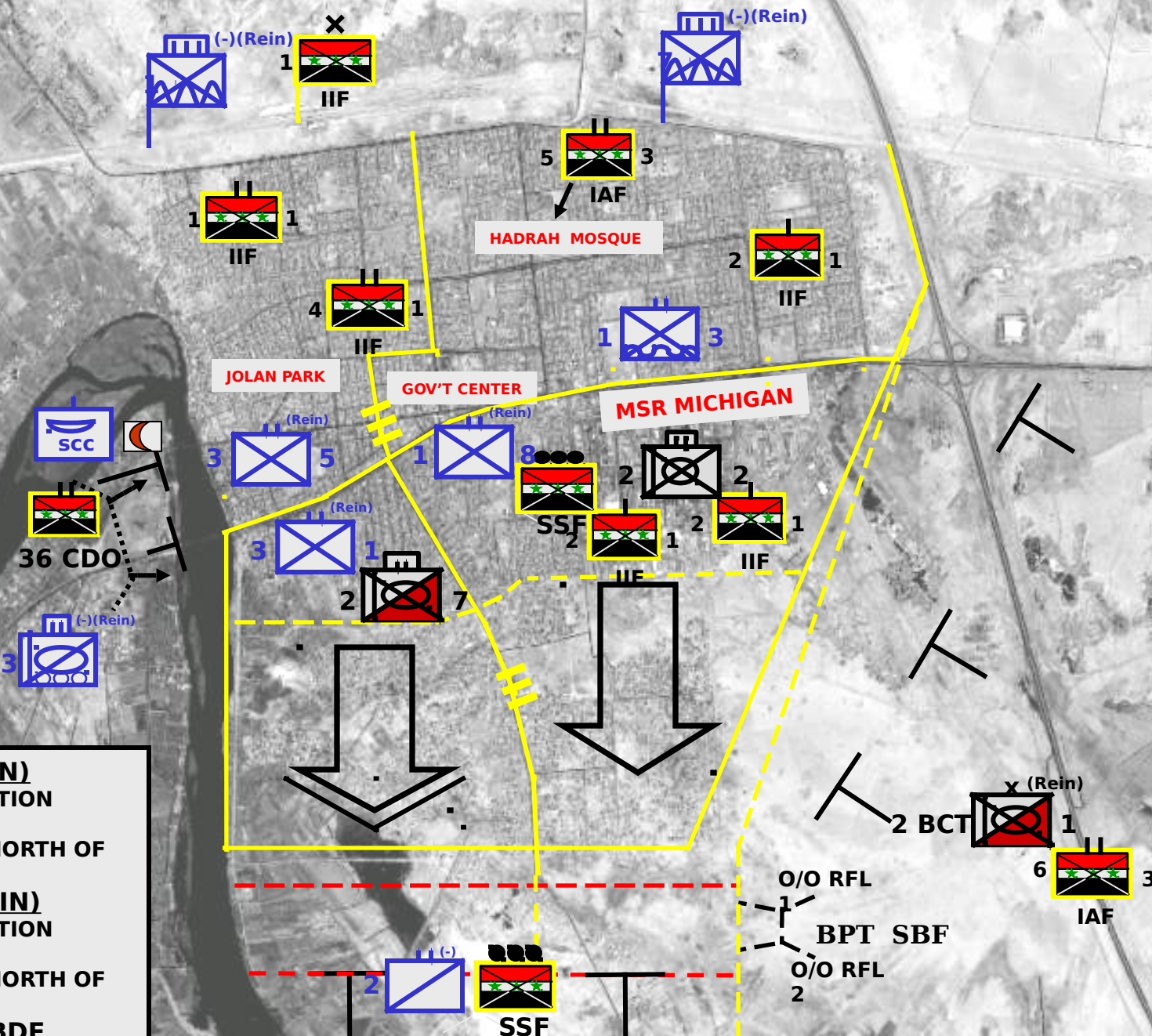
SE2: BLACK JACK BDE

- INTERDICT INSURGENTS IN AO RALEIGH
- BLOCK SOUTH/SOUTHEAST OF FALLUJAH
- SECURITY OF MSR MOBILE & MICHIGAN IN ZONE

PLANNED PHASE III-A (NOT EXECUTED)



PHASE III-A BRANCH PLAN (EXECUTED 11 NOV)



ME: RCT-1 (-) (REIN)
•CONTINUE PENETRATION SOUTH
•SEARCH & ATTACK NORTH OF MSR MICHIGAN
SE1: RCT-7 (-) (REIN)
•CONTINUE PENETRATION SOUTH
•SEARCH & ATTACK NORTH OF MSR MICHIGAN
SE2: BLACKJACK BDF



ENEMY TACTICS

DEFENSIVE BELTS

- DAISY CHAINED IEDs
- SMALL UNIT STRONGPOINTS
- USE OF PROTECTED SITES (e.g. MOSQUES, SCHOOLS)
- TUNNEL SYSTEMS
- WEAPONS CACHES
- HIT AND FALL BACK
- INDIRECT FIRE
- FALSE SURRENDER
- DRUG USE

ATTRITION

- VBIED OR SUICIDE BOMBERS
- BOOBY-TRAPS
 - BUILDINGS/CACHES
 - INSURGENTS (DEAD AND WOUNDED)
- SNIPERS
- LAST STAND POSITIONS



SUICIDE VESTS

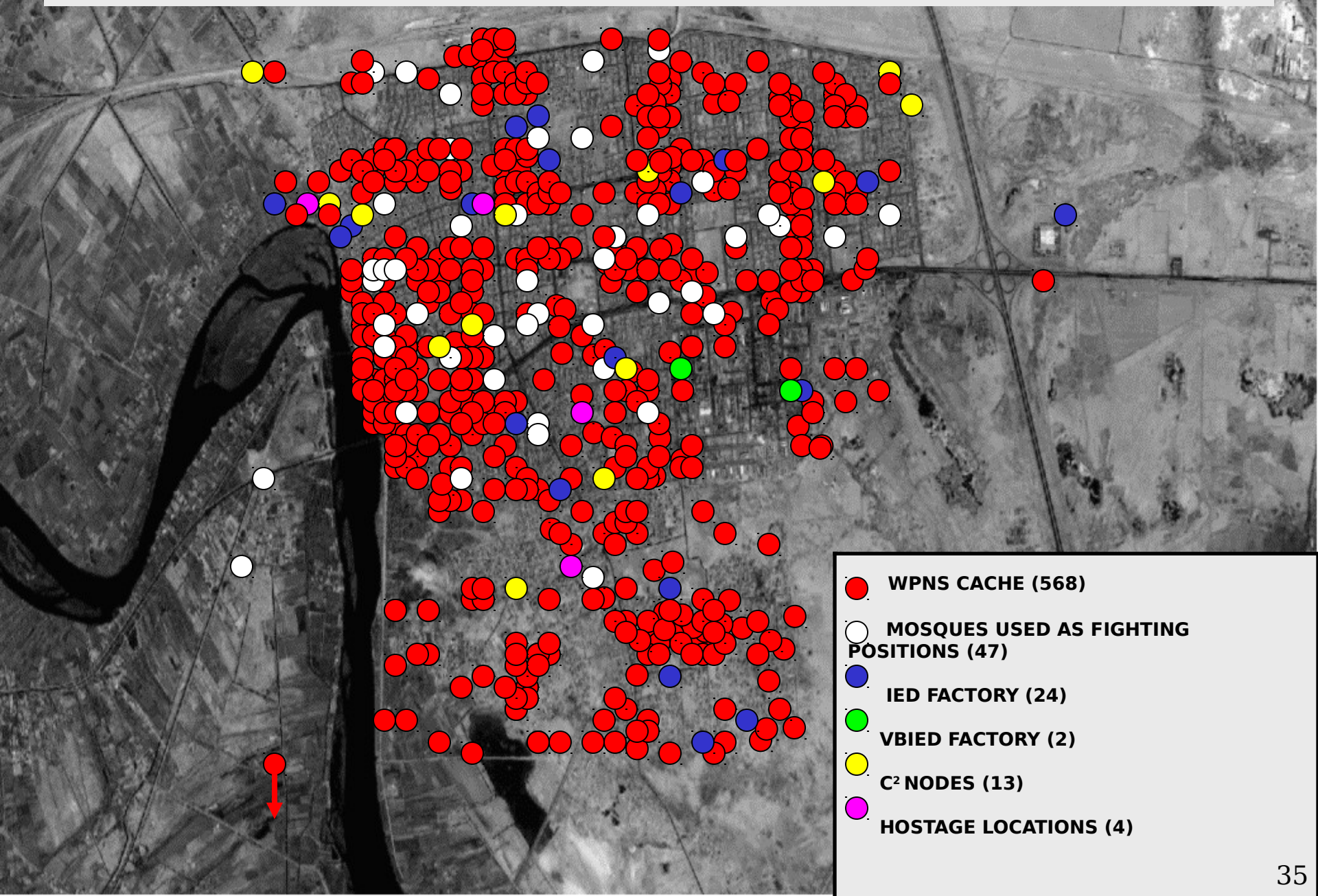


IEDs



WEAPONS CACHE

1ST MARDIV DISCOVERIES IN FALLUJAH





Armor Vehicle Observations

Company C, 2nd Tank Battalion

- Tank-Infantry Team
- Ammo Expenditure (Actual sustained rate 24 rounds per tank per day)
 - 2,985 120mm
 - 77,000 .50 Cal
 - 150,000 7.62
- Sighting Systems (M1A2 SEP, .50 Cal Thermal)
- Ammunition Effectiveness (HEAT and Cannister vs. MPAT or HE-OR)
- Dynamic Breach (Hull/Fire/Plow)
- Vehicle Recovery (Tow Bar per Section)



Armor Vehicle Observations

Company D, 2D Assault Amphibian Vehicle Battalion

- Weapons
 - MK-19 - ideal for entry or open and soft targets
 - M2 .50 Cal great on hard structures/potential VBIED
 - Turret Placement prevents port side engagements
- M36E3 DVE limits vision and depth
- Dynamic Breaching
 - Ram
 - Mounting platform for 2nd floor entries
- Greatest Threat RPG (21 hits) - Enhanced Applique Armor Works (EAAK)
 - Mounted Infantry 360 security
- Urban Patrols
 - Rolling 3-5 mph
 - AAV fire support/suppressive fires
- Kevlar Blankets for mine threat
- Litter Kits for Evacuations



Armor Vehicle Observations

Company A, 2D Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion

- Flexibility and speed enhanced survivability
- Endurance and range underestimated
- Armor vulnerability limits missions in urban fight
 - Great for long range precision fires
 - Great for security operations
- Communications
 - Long Range on the Move Sat Comm
 - Dismounted Communications
- Anti-Tank Solution needed for LAV-AT
- Main Gun Sighting Systems need increased magnification
- DVE enabled travel completely blacked out at 80 kph
- LAV-Logistics variant an ideal in-extremis medevac ambulance



LESSONS LEARNED

- **ATTACH UNITS EARLY FOR PLANNING/INTEGRATION**
- **ISR PLATFORMS ESSENTIAL FOR TARGETING**
- **PSYOPS/IO/SIGINT KEY TO SHAPING**
- **MANEUVER AND KINETIC STRIKES SUPPORT INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION**
- **ARMOR/INFANTRY REMAIN COMPLIMENTARY FORCE IN URBAN ENVIRONMENT**
- **RAPID PENETRATIONS EXPLOITED OUR SUPERIOR FIREPOWER, ARMOR PROTECTION, AND C² ADVANTAGES, WHILE DISRUPTING ENEMY C² AND DEFENSES**
- **COMMANDERS NEED TO BE FORWARD TO ENSURE SITUATIONAL AWARENESS AND TIMELY DECISION MAKING**
- **ALL COALITION UNITS MUST BE ASSIMILATED IN A COMMON COMM PLAN**
- **DOCTRINALLY SOUND C² AND FIRES ARCHITECTURE OVERCAME T/O SHORTFALLS**
- **PRECISION MUNITIONS CRITICAL IN LIMITING COLLATERAL DAMAGE/FRATRICIDE**
- **DOCTRINE WORKS - COMMON TACTICAL/OPERATIONAL TERMINOLOGY**



Sgt Norwood 3/1 Fallujah